## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

Inventor(s): Robert B. DICKSON et al.

Filed: Herewith

Title: MATRIPTASE, A SERINE PROTEASE AND ITS APPLICATIONS

September 12, 2001

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents	
Washington, D.C. 20231	
	Please amend this application as follows:
N THE SPECIFICATION:	
	At the top of the first page, just under the title, insert
in the control of the	This application is the National Phase of International Application  PCT/ <u>US00/06111</u> filed 10 March 2000 which designated the U.S.
`	and that International Application
	was mot published under PCT Article 21(2) in English

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP Intellectual Property Group

Bv:

Attorney: Robin L. Teskin

Reg. No: 35,030

Tel. No.: 703.905.2200 Fax No.: 703.905.2500

Atty\Sec. RXT/lak 1600 Tysons Boulevard

McLean, VA 22102 (703) 905-2000

5

## **ABSTRACT**

The invention is directed to a method of detecting a malignancy or a pre-malignant lesion in breast or other tissue, or a pathologic condition, by detecting the presence of single-chain or two-chain forms of matriptase in the tissue. The invention is further directed to a method of treating malignancies, which have the phenotype of matriptase production by administering a tumor formation inhibiting effective amount of concentrate of Bowman-Birk inhibitor (BBIC), or other matriptase inhibitor. The invention also is directed to nucleic acids encoding a matriptase protein or fragments thereof, and their use for structure elucidation and modeling to identify other inhibitors of matriptase, as well as to methods of identifying matriptase modulating agents, including activators and inhibitors.